

## Message Text

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NEA/AGRIFFIN

S/S-O:JHOGANSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 167792

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEATS AMMAN 3552 ACTION SECSTATE INFO JIDDA

TEHRAN 6 JUL 76

QUOTE S E C R E T AMMAN 3552

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR JO US SA IR

SUBJECT: JORDAN AIR DEFENSE-TALK WITH RIFAI

REF: (A) AMMAN 3512 (B) AMMAN 3513, (C) STATE 166458

SUMMARY: I SAW RIFAI JULY 6 ON HIS RETURN FROM VISIT  
TO TEHRAN AND WITH KING TO JIDDA. RIFAI WAS VERY OPTIMISTIC  
SAYING THEY HAD HAD AN EXCELLENT VISIT AND RECEPTION IN  
JIDDA, SAUDIS APPEARED VERY SYMPATHETIC TO PROVIDING  
500 MILLION PLUS FOR HAWK DEAL, SAUDI ALSO SEEMED MORE  
SUPPORTIVE OF SYRIA THAN IN THE PAST AND ARE STILL

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OPTIMISTIC ABOUT SYRIAN-EGYPTIAN RAPPROCHEMENT. END

SUMMARY

1. I TOLD RIFAI I HAD COME TO GET A READ OUT FROM HIM ON HIS TRIPS AND ALSO TO FILL IN ANY GAPS HE MIGHT HAVE HAD IN HIS OWN MIND ON THE INSTRUCTIONS I WENT OVER WITH THE KING JULY 4 PRIOR TO KINGS DEPARTURE FOR SAUDI ARABIA.

2. RIFAI SAID HIS TRIP HAD BEEN EXCELLENT. RECEPTION WAS IN GOOD INTEHRAN AND SHAH ASSURED RIFAI THAT KING KHALID AGREED TO MAKE \$500 MILLION AVAIL A FOR ANY WESTERN SYSTEM NOT ANGLO AMERICAN PROPOSAL ALONE. SHAH HAD SUGGESTED THE NUMBER BECAUSE SOMEONE HAD TOLD HIM IT WAS THE RIGHT FIGURE. RIFAI ALSO ADDED THAT SHAH HAS AGREED TO FUND JORDAN ARMOR REBUILD FACILTY FOR DIESELIZING AND UPGUNNING OF KINGS TANKS.

3. RIFAI SAID THA HE ARRIVED IN JIDDA 15 MINUTES BEFORE KING. HE WAS MET BY PRINCE FAHBJ WHO TOLD RIFAI THAT "SITUATION LOOKS VERY GOOD AND YO WIILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED BY THIS VISIT".

4. RIFAI SAID KING TOLD SAUDIS FULLY AND COMPLETELY ABOUT SOVIET OFFER AND HANDED THEM A COPY OF SOVIET PROVIDED DOCUMENTS OUTLINDING THE OFFER IN COMPLETE DETAIL. KING HAD EXPLAINED ALSO THAT HE HAD BEEN INFORMED BY US JUST BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE THAT WITH THE DROPPING OF A DEPOT AND SOME OTHER ITEMS PRICE COULD BE REDUCED TO \$510-543 MILLION. US WOULD MAINTAIN DELIVERY SCHEDULE EXCEPT FOR SLIPPAGE DUE TO FUNDING PROBLEM. SAUDIS HAD MADE GENERAL STATEMENT THAT THEY WERE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT BEING PREPARED TO PROVIDE THE FUNDING AND THAT WHILE AN OFFICIAL DECISION WOULD REQUIRE FURTHER CONSULTATION AMONG THEM, JORDAN WOULD BE INFORMED BY WEDNESDAY JULY 7 OF SAUDI FINAL DECISION. RIFAI SAID THAT FAHD TOLD HIM PRIVATELY LATER THAN SAUDI SUPPORT WAS ASSURED AND THAT CONSULTATION WAS ONLY FORMALITY.

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5. RIFAI SAID HE BELIEVES WINCE THE SUADIS KNOW THAT JORDANIANS KNOW OF PROMISE OF SHAH FOR \$500 MILLION, SAUDIS THEMSELVES WILL VOLUNTEER TO PICK UP ANY SMALL REMAINING DIFFERENCES IN PRICE. RIFAI SAID HOWEVER THAT IF SAUDIS ARE NOT ABLE TO HE WAS SURE HE COULD FIND MINDY FROM SOME PLACE. RIFAI SAID ATMOSPHERE OF VISIT WAS EXCELLENT, BETTER THAN ANY OTHER HE HAD EXPERIENCED IN SAUDI ARABIA AND THAT

SIDE CONVERSATIONS WITH VARIOUS SAUDI SENIOR OFFICIALS  
TENDED TO CONFIRM THIS ATMOSPHERE CONTRARY TO SITUATION  
PREVALENT IN PAST VISITS.

6. ON POLITICAL SUBJECTS, RIFAI SAID THAT SAUDIS WENT  
OUT OF THEIR WAY TO SUPPORT ASAD AS BES AND POSSIBLY  
ONLY REAL LEADER IN SYRIA. THEY WERE MUCH MORE FORTH  
COMING THAN JORDANIANS EXPECTED ALTHOUGH RIFAI ALLOWED  
IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM ME THAT THIS COULD HAVE  
BEEN PART OF SAUDI POLITENESS AND DIPLOMACY  
RATHER THAN REAL FEELINGS.

7. ON EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN RAPPROCHEMENT, SAUDIS INDICATED  
THEIR STRONG CONCERN THAT PROGRESS CONTINUE. THEIR  
PRESENT IDEA IS THAT SOMETIME NEAR THE END OF SEPTEMBER  
AFTER RAMADAN THE SAUDIS MIGHT INVITE ASAD AND SADAT TOGETHER  
TO COME TO SAUDI ARABIA "TO REVIEW A MILITARY PARADE NOT  
NECESSARILY TO TALK".

8. RIFAI SAID THAT THE BEATING HE HAD TAKEN PERSONALLY  
FROM KHALID DURING HIS LAST TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA HAD  
QUITE POSSIBLY HELPED TO SETTLE THE ATMOSPHERE ALONG  
WITH WHAT HE INDICATED WAS SAUDI CONCERN ABOUT THE  
REAL POSSIBILITY OF SOVIET BIROADS INTO JORDAN. RIFAI  
SAID JORDANIANS HAD ASKED MANY TIMES IF SAUDIS HAD ANY  
PROBLEMS OR ISSUES TO DISCUSS OR RAISE WITH THEM. ON  
EACH OCCASION SAUDIS DEMURRED.

9. SHAH TOLD RIFAI THAT HE HAD INFORMED SAUDIS THAT  
THEY COULD COUNT THEMSELVES VERY LUCKY THAT HUSSEIN  
HAD NOT BEEN OFFERED A FREE GIFT OF AIR DEFENSE EQUIP  
MENT BY THE SOVIETS.

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10. RIFAI SAID KING WAS VERY ATTRACTED BY SOVIET  
OFFER AND THE AND BIN SHAKER HAD EXPENDED SOME  
EFFORT TO CONVINCE KING THAT THE ONLY REAL ALTERNATIVE  
FOR FUNDING AS WELL AS MANY OTHER REASONS WAS US OFFER.  
(COMMENT: I THINK WE MUST OBVIOUSLY ACCEPT RIFAI'S SELF SERVING  
REMARKS ON THIS POINT WITH SOME RESERVE.  
END COMMENT)

11 COMMENT: BY WAY OF GENERAL REACTIONS OUR FEELINGS HERE  
IS IT IS TOO EARLY TO KNOW WHETHER THIS IS REALLY THE  
END OF THE FINANCING PROBLEM OR NOT. WE HAVE BEEN  
NEARLY TO THIS STEP SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE ONLY TO HAVE  
IT FALL THROUGH. I SUSPECT WE WILL KNOW WITHIN THE  
WEEK WHAT THE SAUDIS ARE PREPARED TO DO. FAHD  
INSISTED TO RIFAI THAT SAUDIS WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH

JORDANIANS AND THAT SEVERAL ARREARAGES ON PAST COMMIT  
MENTS TO JORDAN WOULD BE PAID ALMOST IMMEDIATELY.  
THAT TOO MAY BE SOME SOORT OF A SIGNAL. RIFAI HOWEVER  
SEEMS SUPREMELY CONFIDENTLY AT THIS POINT ABOUT THE  
WAY THE DEAL HAS WORKED OUT HAD THE WHOLE THING FALLEN THROUGH  
WE ASSUME HE WOULD HAVE BEEN AND STILL MIGHT  
WELL BE IF IT DOS FAL THROUGH KING PRIME SCAPEGOAT  
IN THE AFFAIR.  
END COMMENT.  
PICKERING  
UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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NNN

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